

BUDGET GLEANINGS.

"ORIONIDS."

A list of birds seen in Suffolk from January 14th—February 7th included thirty kinds. Among them were gulls (common, lesser, black-backed, and herring), blue and great tits, moorhen, fieldfare, goldfinch, wren, heron, pochard, golden-eyes, snipe, barn owl, wild duck, curlew, redshank, dunlin, stonechat, lark, redwing, pheasant.

A bird table: "Under an old mulberry tree, every morning, we feed the birds with hemp seed, bread, suet, cracked Brazil nuts. There are also two cocoanuts hung up. We then retire behind a bush with camp-stools and watch. We usually get fifty or sixty birds at a time, including blue tits, cole tits, great tits, robins, chaffinches, thrushes, sparrows, blackbirds, two wood pigeons, and once three bullfinches. Every morning we used to have twenty-one greenfinches. The other day they came as usual, but when we had been watching for about twenty minutes two of them flew to a neighbouring plantation and presently a large flock came and settled in the trees near the mulberry. We counted thirty-eight feeding at the same time. The tits, also, were rather amusing that morning. Two cole tits stuffed greedily at the nuts, and presently one flew up into the tree with a piece, pecked out little holes in the bark, buried the nut, and covered it over with little bits of bark. This was repeated several times until he was driven off by a great tit." This was near Hull. Tits are found to come to cocoanuts and fat in a London garden.

The Country Side, an illustrated weekly on all branches of nature study, price 2d., 2 and 4, Tudor Street, W. Annual subscription includes membership of British Empire Naturalists' Association (or can be joined separately). Advantages: Interchange of specimens, photographs, etc.,

naming of specimens, lectures at the various local branches, nature rambles, and other help for teachers. For particulars apply Miss G. B. Norrey, Warham, Wells, Norfolk.

For good, cheap reproductions of pictures and sculpture in Roman galleries and views of Rome, Ernesto Richter, via serpienti 170, Rome, may be useful sometimes for picture talks; Plutarch, etc. No catalogue, but there is a large selection.

"DIPPERS."

New Game.—"Mark Over" (Hamley's, 1/6 or 1/11). Discs with rabbits on them are discharged from trap, roll across table, and are shot at by guns firing elastic bands.

The Musician, by Ridley Prentice (Curwen and Sons), Grades I. to VI., giving list of pieces for pupils of all ages, with analysis of several pieces in each.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING.

HELD AT 50, PORCHESTER TERRACE (BY KIND PERMISSION OF
MRS. FRANKLIN, JUNE 12TH, 1909, AT 3 P.M.)

Present: Misses Parish, Franklin, Gray. Miss Parish in the Chair.

1. The minutes of last meeting were read.

2. *Correspondence*.

A letter from Miss Janet Smyth was read saying how pleased she was to join the Association, and to hear that the students had decided to start a fund for Home and Foreign Missions.

A letter from Mrs. Franklin was read asking whether the students would be willing to take over the *Children's Quarterly* and the *Portfolio* from the Reading Branch of the

P.N.E.U., who now wish to be relieved of the responsibility of them. It was decided that this should be done, and that suitable students should be found who would hold themselves responsible for carrying them on. Several names were suggested, and the Secretary was asked to write and see whether they would be willing to undertake this.

Letters of regret at absence were received from Misses Wix, Kitching, and Pennethorne.

3. *Revision of Rules.*

The following rules were agreed to, in place of those now standing :—

I. The Executive Committee of the Old Students' Association to consist of seven members resident in London, hon. secretary and editor, all to be elected by the Association. The S.E.C. and officers to be elected every two years, retiring members to be eligible for re-election.

(a) The Committee to have power to add to its numbers for special business.

(b) The Committee to elect a new member should any vacancy occur between the elections. The hon. officers must always be elected by the Association.

(c) The Committee to elect a chairman from their number, and should the chairman be absent from any meeting a deputy to be appointed from the members present.

II. Each member of the S.E.C. to undertake to represent a certain number of "years," so that all students shall be represented.

III. Reports of all committee meetings to be published in "L'Umile Pianta."

IV. A minute book is to be kept by the Secretary or her deputy, and the minutes of last meeting are to be read and confirmed.

V. All committee members shall receive an agenda before a meeting, and Branch Secretaries and all members of the

Association are entitled to receive the same on written application to the Secretary before each meeting, enclosing 1½d. stamps.

VI. The S.E.C. to meet not less than twice a year.

VII. The S.E.C. to hold itself responsible for the biennial Students' Conference.

VIII. At all meetings of the S.E.C. three to form a quorum, except when fundamental changes are suggested, in which case the whole Committee to be consulted.

It was decided to print these rules in the next "L'Umile Pianta" with the following introduction :—

AMBLESIDE OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

Any student may become a member on paying an annual subscription of 3s. 6d.

The business of the Association shall be carried on by an Executive Committee, which shall be subject to the following rules :—

4. *Revision of representation.*

This has been left until the next meeting of the Committee, when the Committee will be complete.*

5. *Consideration of 9th member of S.E.C.*

With the sanction of the rest of the Committee it was decided to co-opt Miss Bernau.

6. *Students' meetings.*

All Branch Secretaries are asked to send their names and addresses to the Secretary so that a list may be published in the next number of "L'Umile Pianta."

The London Branch will continue to hold its meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 3.30, at 13, Chilworth Street (by kind permission of Miss Faunce and Miss Evans). It has been decided that the members of the S.E.C. shall arrange to be present at these meetings in alphabetical order; or, if unable to be present, shall find a substitute—this with the idea of collecting data for the S.E.C. meetings and of providing someone to open discussions, for it was

felt that it would be a good thing if, failing other business, the P.R. of the previous month should be discussed.

7. *General notes on Conference.*

None forthcoming.

8. *Branches and their Secretaries.*

See students' meetings.

9. *Date of next meeting.*

The next S.E.C. meeting to be held on the second Saturday in October; time and place to be stated later on with the Agenda.

Will all students who hope to be present at the students' meetings kindly sent a postcard to Miss Faunce, as she and Miss Evans would be glad to know how many they may expect. It is hoped that students will bear this in mind—it is only a small thing to do, and we are all much indebted to Misses Faunce and Evans for so kindly allowing us to meet at Chilworth Street. Those of us who used to go to the York Tea-rooms can testify to the great benefit we have derived from the change of place.

There will be no meeting in August or September.

SCALE HOW NEWS.

ALTHOUGH we had so many gaieties at the beginning of the term while the ex-students were here, we have by no means been without them since.

At half-term most of us went to Ullswater. It poured with rain on the Monday, and the excursion had to be put off till Tuesday, which was fortunately fine on the whole, there being only one or two slight showers during the day.

Mrs. Daniell was staying at Ambleside for the half-term, and on Saturday evening she gave us a delightful concert. She sang children's songs with great charm. Stevenson's songs for children and Kipling's poems from the Just-so

Stories formed the greater part of the programme. Mrs. Daniell also spoke about concerts for children and insisted strongly on their appreciation of good music. At the end of the evening Mr. Yates thanked Mrs. Daniell for her kindness, and then sang our old favourites, "The Royal Wild Beast Show," "Lord Lovell," etc.

On a long-half the Juniors invited the Seniors to a pic-nic. The meeting-place was on Lough Rigg above the Rydal quarries. After a very dainty tea, a most exciting game was played. Everyone was given a bow of coloured ribbon, there being two bows of each colour, the wearers of duplicate colours were partners. Then each pair was given the following mysterious document:—"I staide in the regione of Ambleside in 'Ye Olde Crowne Inne.' In the nighte I was awoke from out my sleepe, and was lede forth by a spirite. We did come unto a mountain yclept Loughrigg. When we did reach ye olde feasting mounds the spirite did draw me westwards to the rushing beck. The mere lay hid behind us, and alle arounde was colde and dark. We wandered a javelin's cast or more towards a slender tree, and then turned aside where a few ghastly bones barred the way. Then we went towards a tall, lone rock, and on the side of it did finde an arrow. We did followe where the arrow pointed, and the spirite searched among ye rocks the while. Seeming to call to mind, we turned and did go towards a tree with a clout tied round it. From there we found large footsteps. Following these awhile we found signs of a smalle bickering, and now with eyes alert we traced a wounded knyghte till we came to yonder grave. On it was writ, and half rubbed out, 'Here lieth . . .' Here the spirite did groan and shede a tear. With saddened mien he led me towards the precipice surmounted by ye trees, and near bye a boulder an ell in width. Here ye spirite did shew to me the cross bones, saying, 'Within twenty ells from here the treasure lyeth hid.' Forthwith he disappeared, and I,

yclade in my nyghte attire, searched under a flat stone with faire ferns around, and found the treasure."

We set out on the chase full of eagerness. At first the marks were easy to trace, and we followed them, almost treading on one another's heels; but after the grave was discovered we scattered in various directions. In fact, when the treasure was found, after a most exciting search, some of the party were hundreds of yards from the spot; many had toiled up sundry peaks in their search for the cross bones. We all enjoyed ourselves immensely, and voted the treasure hunt the best of good fun.

J. V. G.

DRAWING-ROOM EVENING.

THIS term we have had some very delightful drawing-room evenings. The first, a paper on Heine, was given by Miss Denne. Several of Heine's poems were read, and we greatly enjoyed the rendering of some of his beautiful songs. Fraülein Grimm declaimed "Die Grenadiere," which was very much appreciated. Extracts were read from Matthew Arnold's essay on Heine.

A new departure was taken by Miss Parsons, who read a paper on Galileo. Interesting details were given with regard to his great discoveries. From the reading of some of his letters we got delightful glimpses into his family life, and felt that we had become more intimate with the personality of the man, apart from his great character as an astronomer.

Miss Good gave a most successful evening on Goldsmith. The interesting story of his life was supplemented by extracts from the "Deserted Village" and the "Traveller." The part chosen from the "Deserted Village" was the description of the parish priest, which is thought to be a portrait of his father. The Man in Black was also read. The evening

ended with the reading of some scenes from "She Stoops to Conquer."

Miss Jenkinson delighted the Scotch people by reading a paper on Edinburgh. The Scotch members of the community appeared with tartan badges for the occasion, and Made-moiselle Mottu honoured Scotland by wearing a tartan head-dress. Miss Jenkinson began with a short historical sketch, giving interesting particulars in connection with the Castle and Holyrood; then followed an account of the various distinguished men, who had been citizens of Edinburgh, and the houses connected with them. We were told many amusing anecdotes and historical details, some of which were new even to those of us who know Edinburgh best. Several Scotch songs were sung, including "Auld Reekie."

Another very enjoyable evening was given by Miss Reid on Mrs. Ewing. The sketch of the authoress's life was interesting, and we greatly enjoyed some extracts from her delightful books.

One evening during Mr. Thornley's visit we had a very special treat. Miss Thornley, who had come with her father, gave a piano recital, including the Sonata in C major by Beethoven; "Etude en forme de Valse," by Saint-Saens; an Impromptu and Study by Chopin; and "Nachtstück," by Schumann. We were very grateful to Miss Thornley for the great pleasure she gave us.

L. MacD.

NATURE NOTES.

MR. THORNLEY paid us his annual visit last week (June 22nd-26th). On the 23rd we (the Seniors) started for a walk with him. We met at Skelwith Bridge, and as it was raining we spent some time in looking over the saw mills. As the rain did not cease we took refuge in an outhouse; but we did not

waste our time. Some venturesome spirits went out and brought in treasures which Mr. Thornley examined with us. We were told a great deal about galls, and Conold's book on galls was recommended to us. It cleared a little, and we had just reached the Falls, which were greatly swelled by the rain, when a message came from Miss Mason telling us to return.

That evening Mr. Thornley gave us a most interesting lecture on Gilbert White's Selbourne. At the close of his lecture he read us some delightful extracts from Timothy the Tortoise.

The next morning we again set out, this time Sweden Bridge was our destination. Almost at every step we found some object of interest. Moths were fairly lively, and we noticed especially the magpie moth and the silver carpet. We had not gone far, however, before the rain began to descend in torrents. Once more we had to shelter, this time under elm-trees; the rain did not cease, so we slowly wended our way home, stopping every now and then to examine some object of interest.

The Juniors went for their walk in the afternoon, and were favoured by two or three hours of sunshine. They found some new and interesting beetles, among them four of the genus *Phyllobus*. Owing to the damp the Juniors were not able to have tea out of doors.

After tea the indefatigable Mr. Thornley offered once more to brave the elements, this time with us all. We went up the Stock Valley. Everything was rather wet, and most of the insects were hiding under leaves. By shaking the branches we caught quite a number in an open umbrella, a lace-winged fly amongst others. But we again had to hurry home on account of the rain. The next morning Mr. Thornley went round the gardens. He had to hurry round, as he was leaving that morning and was first going to take the school children for a walk on the terrace.

Some gardens, he said, were looking very nice, others showed traces of having been visited by sheep, while others only seemed to grow labels. We have put in a good many new plants, but there are still many empty spaces. We should be so glad if anyone would send us roots of plants they know do not grow here.

A. M. T.

CRITICISM LESSONS.

An Introductory Lesson to Solid Geometry. Class II. Miss Smith.

The children were given models of cubes, cuboids, cones, prisms, pyramids, etc., to examine, and asked to compare and contrast them. They were asked to give examples of the new figures they had learnt from common objects, buildings, church steeples, cupola on school roof, etc.

Literature—Chaucer. Class IV. Miss Good.

Short sketch of the life of Chaucer followed by an appreciation of his character and style. His works divided into three periods—short descriptions of the more important. The manner in which several of his poems were briefly described was calculated to arouse the girls' interest in Chaucer's works.

Dancing. Classes II. and III. Miss Fellowes.

Objects were to make the children graceful and to increase power over their limbs. To teach them dancing as a medium through which they might express their sense of the rhythm of music. Several Spanish exercises were taught.

History. Class III. Miss Bishop.

Subject: The Invention and Improvement of Machinery used in Manufactories.—A rough sketch of the first weaving machine was drawn on the blackboard to show the children how it worked.

Cotton and linen made by machinery and by hand were shown under the microscope; wool and silk in various stages of manufacture were also shown.

C. C. S.

STUDENTS' MEETING.

A *Students' Meeting* was held at 13, Chilworth Street, on July 3rd. The following were present: M. Conder, M. E. Franklin, W. Kitching, L. H. Morris, F. Rankin, and J. Wilkinson.

Miss Rankin opened an informal discussion on Children's Books. The point raised was whether stories from the Classics told to children, however charmingly written, were altogether to be recommended; *eg.*, "Stories from the Faerie Queen," from "Morte d'Arthur," "Chaucer for Children," etc. Some contended that they took the edge off the children's enjoyment of the originals, which would be less eagerly read if they could get the plot with so much less trouble. Shakespeare's plays were excepted, as the dramatic interest in them appealed as strongly to children as the stories. Others were of the opinion that children could not make the acquaintance too early of the heroes of romance, and would delight in learning more about old friends later on.

[It would be interesting to hear the views of other students on this subject.]

There was also a discussion on how to adapt the programme of Class I. when there was not time to take all the subjects. The relative importance of Handicrafts was especially considered.

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There will be no meeting in August or September. The next London Students' Meeting will be held on October 2nd at 13, Chilworth Street, at 3.30 p.m., and, subsequently, on

the first Saturday in every month. Those intending to be present are requested to send their names to Miss M. Evans, that she may know how many to expect.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

MAY 10TH.—At 8, Howard Terrace, Dungannon, the wife of W. J. Irwin, of a son.